



# The Weekly Page

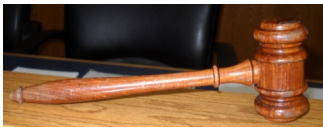
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

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## Pages Learn About The Legislature



### Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address

issues which were relevant to them and the state. Criteria for writing a good bill was discussed before students selected issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates to formulate official-looking bills in preparation for a mock committee hearing on Thursday. Pages also wrote media releases for their bills which are included in this newsletter.

Pages read their bills and “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. Each bill was voted upon resulting in a “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation that determines whether the bill continues on in the legislative process. Because pages are in the Page School for only two hours a day for one week, there is not sufficient time to fully develop the final versions of their bills. However, the process of writing and presenting their own bills provides an excellent exposure to the real legislative process.

### Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.

### Lawmakers put a surge into high school learning

Olympia – Senate Bill 7340 was introduced yesterday by Senators Brandon Berend, Nathan Johnson, and Noah Marshall. “This bill addresses the issue of teenagers that are sleep deprived which can cause health problems and interfere with learning. The bill will help end the poor performance of today’s high school students,” said Sen. Berend. By setting the school start time at 9:00 am, this will increase grades, health, performance and attitude. It will also help reduce absenteeism, metabolic and nutritional deficits. The Minneapolis Public School District



changed the school start time and the results were encouraging. They saw that students were more alert, less depressed, and they had higher enrollment rates. If this bill is passed, it will benefit society because the high school students will be more alert, less depressed, and smarter as a result of doing better in school when they have more sleep. AS another result we will have many more alert drivers on the road in the morning as the students will be getting adequate rest.

### We say yes



Olympia – House Bill 1321 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Rosana Bravo, Paityn Solem, and Aaliyah Johnson. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity. The bill will make P.E. mandatory

in grades K-12,” said Rep. Bravo. This bill is trying to enforce physical activity in youth. By doing so, the percentage of obese children will decrease.

### Nobody likes anything second-hand

Olympia – Senate Bill 6543 was introduced yesterday by Senators Madison Smith and Karsyn Bryant. “This bill addresses the issue of second-hand smoke in vehicles with children. The bill will ban all smoking in vehicles with children under the age of 18 inside the vehicle,” said Sen. Smith and Bryant. This bill will help decrease the number of adolescent deaths due to second-hand smoke. It will improve air quality in vehicles that are otherwise toxic to young children. This bill will be enforced as a secondary offence. Charges will be a ticket for \$124 that is non-reducible by the court. This issue arose in the 2014 year when statistics were published citing over 42,000 youth died that year due to second-hand smoke.



### Lawmakers against youth in adult courts

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Cy Hanson and James Anderson introduced House Bill 2085 which addresses the issue of juvenile sentencing. “The bill is a good one because it will help troubled youth instead of punishing them in an adult court,” said Rep.



Anderson. The Legislature finds that trying minors in an adult court is too harsh. Currently in Washington State a youth can be tried as an adult for a class 1 or 2 felony disregarding living environment, trauma, and mental illness.

### Sleepy teenagers failing classes

Olympia – The issue of school start times was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Senators Sara Walker, Max Grim, and



Ibelema Stahmer introduced Senate Bill 5420. “Our bill will help students have the ability to absorb more information during the school day,” said Sen. Walker, Grim, and Stahmer. Having later school times will help children to focus more on their studies rather than how tired they are. Sleep deprivation impairs the ability to pay attention, creativity, communication, problem solving, decision making, mood, and motivation.

### Taxpayer’s money wasted for decades

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Patrick Purviance and Paxton Moon introduced Senate Bill 6789, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “This bill is an effective one because the taxpayer money that was once used on offenders on death row will now be put towards K-12 education, foster care, road management, etc.” said Sen. Patrick Purviance. This bill will shorten the 4 year additional time after final appeal that offenders have to be proven innocent before being put to death. This will save taxpayer money as well.



**Watch us live at TVW.org**

Search for “Page School” in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.



## Teachers packin' heat

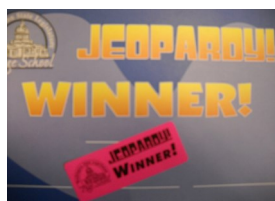


Olympia – Senate Bill 5002 was introduced yesterday by Senators Elise Moneymaker and Kayla Ramsay. “This bill addresses the issue of gun safety. The bill will require teachers

and all staff members to have an immediate accessible firearm carried on their person” said Sen. Moneymaker. Our bill will require all teachers and staff members to have an available firearm on their person during school hours. The teachers and staff will go through appropriate training and gun handling courses before they are permitted to carry the firearm. We suspect that this bill will help protect the lives of students and faculty members at school from an active shooter.

## WALKING DEAD...to study hall

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Andrew Sanchez-Rincon and Espen Shackelford introduced House Bill 1476 which addresses the issue of school starting times. “The bill is a good one, because in the end the students and the schools will be better off academically, physically, and emotionally,” said Rep. Shackelford. This bill will raise academic performance, attendance will improve, and tardiness rates will decline in schools with start times of 8:35 a.m. or later. The number of car crashes involving teen drivers falling asleep will go down with a school that shifts its start time from 7:35 to 8:35 a.m. More than half of teens who attended a school with a start time of 8:30 a.m. or later will be able to get at least eight hours of sleep per night.



## Competitive edge results in Jeopardy win

On Friday, pages tested their knowledge of the legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

## Not just exercising their brain

Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Lucciana Mantha and Maddy Jewell. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity. The bill will require state funded schools to incorporate exercise in their lessons,” said Rep. Mantha. This bill will help children become more active during school hours. With all the emphasis on becoming active, this will hopefully influence more children to exercise on their own time.



## Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions and group activities, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding of these concepts deepened. Class activities introduced new vocabulary words, explained legislative procedures, and explored the bill writing process. On Friday, they individually wrote about one of these “big ideas” to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

## Death penalty put to death

Olympia – Senate Bill 7250 was introduced yesterday by Senators Emma Nichols and William Colson. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty. The bill will abolish the death



penalty in Washington,” said Senator Colson. The Legislature found that abolishing the death penalty will save the state \$1 million per prisoner sentenced to the death penalty. All criminals that were sentenced to death will instead be given life in prison. This will cost the government nothing and will ultimately save the state money in the long run.

## This elderly drivers issue is getting old



Olympia – Senate Bill 7000 was introduced yesterday by Senators Alexandra Cloud, Megan Baek, and Natalie Petri. “This bill addresses the issue of elderly driving

and public safety. The bill will make roads safer for everyone in Washington State and reduce the accident rates caused by elderly drivers.” said Sen. Baek. . The Legislature finds that the accident and fatality rate for elderly drivers is very high. By passing this bill, the Legislature will require seniors over 65 years old to retake a physical driving test and renew their license in person every three years.

## Wolf attacks

Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Vincent Baird introduced Senate Bill 5889 which addresses the issue of wolves. “The bill is a good one because it makes it so the wolf population is not completely wiped out. Therefore the food chain is not affected,” said Sen. Baird. In order to lower the population of wolves, the Legislature will allow farmers, with evidence of three or more wolf attacks, to kill one wolf during a two month period.



## Helping find stray animals

Olympia – House Bill 1111 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Karianne Bolma and Nicole Anders. “This bill addresses the issue of abandoned animals . The bill will help provide fairness and welfare for more stray animals of Washington State,” said Rep. Bolma and Anders. In order to help prevent animal abandonment, the Legislature will require all licensed



shelters to survey the area within a 10 mile radius of their shelter for stray animals annually. A stray animal would be described as a homeless dog, cat, or horse. The shelter would then be

required to make accommodations within their shelter for a minimum of ninety percent of all animals surveyed. We anticipate this will help reduce the growing number of strays in Washington State.

## Guest speakers visit Page School

**Representative Sam Hunt (D-22), Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, and LSS Deputy Director Kevin Pierce** joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information about the legislative process or other aspects of government. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker’s questions.



## Experienced educators

Sharon Heath is in her second year as the Page School teacher; however, she is definitely not new to the Washington Legislature having worked nearly 20 years for the Legislature’s computer support agency. She has also earned a Master’s in Education and has taught middle school as well as college students.

Leo O’Leary has been teaching and coaching in and around Olympia for the past ten years and is in his fourth session as a Page School teacher. “I really like the fact that I can help kids make their dreams come true through both education and athletics,” he said as he introduced himself on Monday.

